



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
Michelle Lujan Grisham | Chairwoman
115TH CONGRESS

March 10, 2017

Thomas D. Homan
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
500 12th St, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Acting Director Homan;

We write to you to express our concern and outrage about a series of tweets that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued on March 9, 2017 regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. These tweets reveal the Administration's contempt for our communities and ultimately undermine the DACA program. We oppose any policy and enforcement changes that will result in the deportation of DACA recipients.

We believe that the purpose of these tweets, which stated that DACA could be "revoked anytime" and that "DACA recipients are typically a lower level of enforcement priority" are meant to create fear among DREAMers and to discourage them from applying to the program. ICE continues to perpetuate this fear by detaining and trying to deport DREAMers. As we have seen in the cases of Daniel Ramirez Medina and Daniela Vargas. We find ICE's actions to be despicable and very concerning given that ICE Acting Director Homan recently stated in a meeting with several Congressional members that DACA recipients were not a priority and would not be targeted unless they had a criminal record.

The DACA program allows young immigrants to be productive members of society by allowing them to continue their studies and join the workforce. As a result of DACA, recipients can legally work, contribute greater amounts in state, local, and federal taxes and help provide for their families. In addition, the DACA program has allowed recipients to work in fields where there are current labor shortages, such as education, community service and health care.

87 percent of DACA recipients are currently employed and have helped to broaden the payroll tax base and increased Social Security and Medicare contributions. Anything that undermines the DACA program and results in a loss of workers will hurt the American economy. For example the state of California, which has an estimated 187,972 DACA workers, would lose \$11.3 billion dollars annually if it were to lose these workers.

Efforts by this Administration to undermine and ultimately repeal the DACA program are disconnected from reality and are not in the best interest of America. We ask that ICE use its limited resources to target violent criminals and not to harass and deport young immigrants who are productive and engaged members of society.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lujan Grisham
CHC Chairwoman

Luis V. Gutiérrez
CHC Immigration and Border Issues
Task Force Chair

Raúl M. Grijalva
CHC Education and Labor
Task Force Chair